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| **October 2023 – General Articles** |
|  | **Fire Safety - Did you know?** • Around 43 fires a year are caused by faulty electric blankets in the home. • Three fires a day are caused by heaters. • In England on average, 3,800 chimney fires occur every year. This leaflet will help you keep safe throughout the winter period as this can be a particularly risky time for fires due to the need to keep warm. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1077382/Fire_Safety_in_the_Winter_v4_-_Web_accessible.pdf>  |
| What Is The Care Quality Commission & How Does It Work? | **State of Care 2022/23**CQC’s annual assessment of the state of health care and adult social care in England has published.‘State of Care’ looks at the trends, shares examples of good and outstanding care and highlights where care needs to improve. Read the report:- <https://www.cqc.org.uk/publications/major-report/state-care> |
|  | **Centre for Mental Health**A mentally healthier nation: towards a ten-year, cross-government plan for better prevention, equality and support. This report, published on behalf of more than 30 national charities, sets out what a long-term government mental health plan for England could look like.  |
| It calls for action to tackle poverty and racial injustice, for reforms to the benefits and justice systems, and for further investment in better and more equitable mental health services. It draws on evidence provided to the UK government’s consultation on its proposed 10-year plan to identify the actions that are necessary to protect people’s mental health, reduce mental health inequalities, and improve mental health services nationwide. Read the report here: -<https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/publication/download/AMentallyHealthierNation_Digital.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14124916_NEWSL_HWB_2023-10-02&dm_i=21A8,8EQUS,2NYYES,YQX6A,1>  |

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| **October 2023 – General Articles** |
|  | **The Children's Society - The good childhood report 2023**In this year’s survey, nearly one-third of children aged 10 to 17 expressed unhappiness in at least one of ten areas of their lives. While 74 per cent were optimistic about their personal futures, less than 40 per cent felt positive about the future of their country and the world. Notably, 14.5 per cent of respondents were dissatisfied with school, the highest among the surveyed aspects.  |
| Children worried about family finances reported higher overall unhappiness, particularly regarding their homes, money, possessions and personal choices. Among future concerns, having enough money topped the list, followed by finding employment and academic success. In societal issues, rising prices and environmental concerns were prominent worries among the surveyed children. Read the report : -<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-09/The%20Good%20Childhood%20Report%202023.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14124916_NEWSL_HWB_2023-10-02&dm_i=21A8,8EQUS,2NYYES,YQL1N,1>  |

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|  | **Asthma + Lung UK - Saving your breath: how better lung health benefits us all**This analysis reveals that despite being the third biggest killer in the UK, simple tests for common lung conditions aren’t widely available to GPs, forcing them to make educated guesses when it comes to diagnosis. The cost of this testing crisis in England alone amounts to an estimated £2.2 billion due to avoidable hospital stays and treatment. The report sets out three steps to improve the care of people with a lung condition. Read the report: - |
| <https://www.asthmaandlung.org.uk/saving-your-breath-report?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14124916_NEWSL_HWB_2023-10-02&dm_i=21A8,8EQUS,2NYYES,YQL2M,1>  |
|  | **Skills for Care** -**The state of the adult social care sector and workforce in England 2023**This report covers the year from April 2022 to March 2023, which saw some improvements in workforce capacity – largely driven by an increase in international recruitment – including more posts being filled, fewer vacancies and less turnover. It also highlights ongoing trends for the sector, including 390,000 people leaving their jobs – with around a third of them leaving the sector altogether.  |
| The report also identifies five factors that are key to retaining staff: being paid more than the minimum wage; not being on a zero-hours contract; being able to work full-time; being able to access training; and having a relevant qualification. Read the report by going to the link below: -<https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Adult-Social-Care-Workforce-Data/Workforce-intelligence/documents/State-of-the-adult-social-care-sector/The-State-of-the-Adult-Social-Care-Sector-and-Workforce-2023.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14157221_NEWSL_HMP_Library%202023-10-17&dm_i=21A8,8FFS5,2NYYES,YTDPP,1>  |

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| **October 2023 – General Articles** |
|  | **Royal College of Nursing (RCN) - Five years on: are we achieving parity between physical and mental health?**This survey finds that only one in ten nursing staff think governments are achieving equality between mental and physical health care with 95 per cent of respondents believing mental health care inequality exists. More than half say it’s got worse or much worse since the pandemic.  |
| Nursing staff report that patients are being forced to wait for months and travel miles for mental health treatment or are having to pay privately to get the care they need. The RCN is calling on all governments across the UK to support mental health care by increasing funding, improving access to services, and ensuring there are safe levels of staffing. Read the report here: - <https://kingsfundmail.org.uk/21A8-8FFS5-2NYYES-5A2Z6B-1/c.aspx>  |
|  | **Dentistry in England explained**NHS dentistry is a pillar of the primary care system. But how is dentistry organised in England? This explainer explores the service's structure, commissioning and contracting, NHS dental appointment costs, workforce and the challenges facing this part of the health and care system.Go to the link below to find out more. |
| <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/dentistry-england-explained?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14157221_NEWSL_HMP_Library%202023-10-17&dm_i=21A8,8FFS5,2NYYES,YSO27,1> |
|  | **The Autumn Statement: playing with fire?**The public, understandably, is not happy with the state of either the NHS or social care. The health of the population is also not looking good. The deep-seated malaise in the health and care system did not happen overnight and, equally, will need a long-term plan to enable its recovery. With the publication of the NHS long term workforce plan as well as radical new commitments made to reducing the harm from tobacco for |
| future generations, we have started to see some welcome long-term thinking on these challenges. While there remains a sizeable list of long-term decisions still to be made (on capital, digital, inequalities, and more), the general lack of long-term planning over the last decade means that, as winter approaches, it is impossible to ignore the immediate and short-term challenges, and attention is turning to the Autumn Statement.<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2023/10/autumn-statement-playing-with-fire?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NEWSL_Weekly%20update%20271023_14183959&utm_content=Button_RichardBlog&dm_i=21A8,8G0EV,2NYYES,YVBFI,1>  |
| Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman | **Spotlight on Sepsis: your stories, your rights** Despite some progress on diagnosis and treatment of sepsis since the publication of the PHSO's report, [**Time to act**](https://kingsfundmail.org.uk/21A8-8FXJN-2NYYES-5AGAVZ-1/c.aspx) in 2013, lessons are not being learnt and repeated mistakes are putting people at risk. This report highlights that the same serious failings are still happening, and that significant improvements are urgently needed to avoid more fatalities. Failings include delays in diagnosis and treatment, poor communication and record-keeping, and missed opportunities for follow-up care. Go to the link to find out more. |
| <https://www.ombudsman.org.uk/sites/default/files/spotlight-on-sepsis-your-stories-your-rights.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NEWSL_HMP_Library%202023-10-27_14180243&dm_i=21A8,8FXJN,2NYYES,YVAIA,1>  |

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| **Other Topics - updates** |

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| 2 October  | Government Guidance**How to rent**This guide is for people who are looking for a house or flat to rent and has been updated with advice on how to access free legal aid services, advice and support, regardless of financial circumstances. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-rent?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=9fc086f7-c241-4585-865d-c1264efa0816&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |
| 2 October | Government Promotional material**Diabetic eye screening: easy read guide**An easy to read leaflet explaining diabetic eye screening (DES). | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/diabetic-eye-screening-easy-read-guide?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=55cfbc07-3100-4909-83eb-92b9473f03f1&utm_content=daily> |
| 2 October | UK Health Security Agency Press release**UKHSA winter briefing**The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) sets out serious impacts of flu ahead of winter as eligible groups urged to come forward for vaccination. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-winter-briefing?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=3a96c232-cc5e-4050-9900-38124a91c673&utm_content=daily>  |
| 2 October | Statutory guidance**The NHS England (Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch) (Revocation, Transitional and Saving Provision) Directions 2023**These directions will allow the Health Services Safety Investigations Body (HSSIB) to complete ongoing national investigations which were commenced by the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) before 1 October 2023. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nhs-england-healthcare-safety-investigation-branch-revocation-transitional-and-saving-provision-directions-2023?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=81c024bd-d8b3-4400-bd55-cf45fbf004fa&utm_content=daily>  |
| 6 October | Government Guidance**Fit note: guidance for patients and employees**This guide explains what the fit note is and how you can use it to have a work and health discussion. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-fit-note-a-guide-for-patients-and-employees?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=b3d55484-0548-42fc-b306-abb3c6fb1772&utm_content=daily> |
| 21 October | UK Health Security Agency Guidance**Cold weather and health: action cards**Cold-Health Alert (CHA) action cards summarise suggested actions to be taken by different professional bodies and organisations in the event of cold weather.Added 3 summary posters  | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cold-weather-plan-action-cards-for-cold-weather-alert-service?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=7614418b-0189-4709-a6b6-d3de732a4ed5&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |

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| **Other Topics - updates** |

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| 25 October | Department for Work & Pensions guidance**Universal Credit and your claimant commitment**How the Universal Credit claimant commitment works and what is expected of claimants in return for getting Universal Credit**.****Universal Credit: further information for families**An overview of what Universal Credit means for families and what they will be expected to do in return.**Universal Credit: further information for families**An overview of what Universal Credit means for families and what they will be expected to do in return.Update: From 25 October 2023, if you are the lead carer of a child aged between 3 and 12, you will be expected to work up to 30 hours a week, or spend up to 30 hours a week on work related activities. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-and-your-claimant-commitment-quick-guide?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=17bc1f19-c47b-432e-8bfe-21c1555ae360&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-and-your-family-quick-guide?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=8d9ea828-2e15-49b1-88cd-db8427aa00ad&utm_content=daily> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-and-your-family-quick-guide?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=8d9ea828-2e15-49b1-88cd-db8427aa00ad&utm_content=daily>  |
| 26 October | Government Guidance**MenACWY vaccine: information for young people**A guide to the MenACWY vaccine – to protect teenagers and young people from meningitis and septicaemia | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/menacwy-vaccine-information-for-young-people?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=0a59e406-25ba-479b-aab9-bd363f777111&utm_content=daily> |
| 27 October | Government Guidance**Flooding and health: public advice**Public advice on flood recovery and mental health impacts. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flooding-and-health-public-advice?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=38718374-2c66-4a0a-8bbf-05cd458f8b66&utm_content=daily> |
| 27 October  | UK Health Security Agency report**Lead Exposure in Children Surveillance System (LEICSS) annual report, 2023**Results of laboratory-based surveillance of elevated blood lead concentrations in children in England. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lead-exposure-in-children-surveillance-reports-from-2021?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=ede0af3b-1c4f-4b56-a875-cad095e2bdb7&utm_content=daily>  |

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| **Other Topics - updates** |

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| 7 October  | Department for Work & Pensions Child Maintenance guidance**Child maintenance: how we work out payments: leaflet**This leaflet explains how the Child Maintenance Service works out how much child maintenance a paying parent must pay.**Child maintenance: how a child’s living arrangements can affect payments: factsheet**This factsheet explains how child maintenance payments are affected when a child stays overnight with the parent who pays child maintenance.**Child maintenance: how paying parents can ask us to consider other income: factsheet**This factsheet explains how to ask us to consider certain types of income when working out child maintenance – 'applying for a variation'.**Child maintenance: how receiving parents can ask us to consider other income: factsheet**This factsheet explains how to ask us to consider certain types of income when working out child maintenance – 'applying for a variation'.**Child maintenance: how we review cases every year: leaflet**This leaflet explains the process for reviewing child maintenance cases every year and how it affects paying parents and receiving parents.**Child Maintenance Service: visits by investigating officers: factsheet**This factsheet is about investigating officers from the Child Maintenance Service.**Child maintenance: adjusting payments for 'split care': factsheet**This factsheet explains how we adjust child maintenance payments when children live with different parents ('split care'). | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-we-work-out-child-maintenance?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=d1e9ce12-b9a9-44fb-aedb-c0227d188777&utm_content=daily> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-maintenance-how-a-childs-living-arrangements-can-affect-payments-factsheet?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=1bef8f72-3077-424e-9d61-a3ff4eb0c6f4&utm_content=daily> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-maintenance-how-paying-parents-can-ask-us-to-consider-other-income-factsheet?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=adb9f316-6094-4ac0-ab54-de8ebc723b9a&utm_content=daily> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-maintenance-how-receiving-parents-can-ask-us-to-consider-other-income-factsheet?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=a92b37f1-6c30-4e64-b4a3-5c01931cf7b5&utm_content=daily> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-maintenance-how-we-review-cases-every-year-leaflet?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=15ca13a2-3c9f-4bab-88b6-22d446fc82ee&utm_content=daily> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-maintenance-service-visits-by-investigating-officers-factsheet?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=c3a56b17-9e4c-42a7-b119-6e130536bcb1&utm_content=daily> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-maintenance-adjusting-payments-for-split-care-factsheet?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=75c39f76-96fd-4340-b831-b2444d19d159&utm_content=daily>  |

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| **Other Topics - updates** |
| 28 October | Disclosure and Barring Service & Ministry of Justice guidance **DBS filtering guide**Filtering identifies and removes protected convictions and cautions so that they are not disclosed on a DBS certificate.Guidance has been updated to reflect legislative changes that have come into action from 28 October 2023. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-filtering-guidance?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=1fc82987-73c5-4c73-8085-5501b633de09&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |
| 31 October | UK Health Security Agency Guidance**Adverse Weather and Health Plan**The Adverse Weather and Health Plan aims to protect individuals and communities from the health effects of adverse weather and to build community resilience.Added new version of user guide. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adverse-weather-and-health-plan?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=03868c5e-c372-4282-adad-f82c5d440ae1&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |

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| **COVID-19 guidance and updates**  |
| 5 October | Government Independent report**COVID-19 autumn 2023 vaccination programme: JCVI advice, 26 May 2023**Statement setting out the advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on the COVID-19 vaccination programme for autumn 2023. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-autumn-2023-vaccination-programme-jcvi-advice-26-may-2023?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=23d03878-35ee-4617-ad67-b05ed2fbbc00&utm_content=daily>  |
| 19 October | Medication and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency Decision**Regulatory approval of COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen**Information for healthcare professionals and the public about the COVID-19 Vaccine JanssenUpdate to sections 4.4 and 4.8 of SmPC and sections 2 and 4 of the PIL text to include a warning about myocarditis and pericarditis and include myocarditis and pericarditis as a possible side effect. - Update to section 4.8 of the SmPC and section 4 of the PIL to revise the frequency of some possible side effects. - Update to section 5.1 of SmPC to update the ATC code. With effect 26 September 2023. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-janssen?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=880a68f3-3415-4293-b9ac-a237a487dec0&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |
| 19 October | UK Health Security Agency Research and analysis**LFD tests: how and why they were used during the pandemic**Report on the general public's COVID-19 testing behaviours after the universal testing offer was introduced in April 2021. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lfd-tests-how-and-why-they-were-used-during-the-pandemic?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=7bf5ef86-81ea-49e9-97dd-f6bf0b4d423f&utm_content=daily>  |
| **COVID-19 guidance and updates**  |
| 19 October | UK Health Security Agency Research collection**COVID-19: testing initiative evaluation programme**Reports relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) testing initiative evaluation programme. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-testing-initiative-evaluation-programme?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=5add94bd-50d8-4ddf-86e1-8d395500507d&utm_content=daily>  |
| 21 October | Medication and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency Decision**Regulatory approval of Spikevax (formerly COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna)**Information for healthcare professionals and the public about SpikevaxUpdate to SmPC and PIL text on myocarditis and pericarditis. - Update to SmPC text on use in immunocompromised individuals. - Update the SmPC and PIL to include mechanical urticaria as an adverse event**Regulatory approval of Spikevax bivalent Original/Omicron booster vaccines**Information for healthcare professionals and the public on Moderna's bivalent vaccines. Information on the original Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine can found on a separate page (link below)Update to SmPC and PIL text on myocarditis and pericarditis - Update to SmPC text on use in immunocompromised individuals - Update to SmPC and PIL to include mechanical urticaria as an adverse eve | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-moderna?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=6e06dd8d-c1d2-4ae9-8524-f712c0450a3f&utm_content=daily> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-spikevax-bivalent-originalomicron-booster-vaccine?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=e674afcd-dacf-4561-87ac-d04c9f5a5266&utm_content=daily>  |
| 23 October  | UK Health Security Agency Press release**UKHSA urges those celebrating Diwali to get vaccinated against flu and COVID-19**The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is calling on those celebrating Diwali to come forward for their flu and COVID-19 vaccinations if they are eligible | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-urges-those-celebrating-diwali-to-get-vaccinated-against-flu-and-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=3557c906-3bf5-40f3-bf6c-9dd935241b69&utm_content=daily>  |
| 26 October | UK Health Security Agency Official Statistics**National flu and COVID-19 surveillance reports: 2023 to 2024 season**National influenza and COVID-19 report, monitoring COVID-19 activity, seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illnesses. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-reports-2023-to-2024-season?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=000a0d75-a2d1-46e6-b63a-3af12890f419&utm_content=daily>  |